BABYLON 5
2
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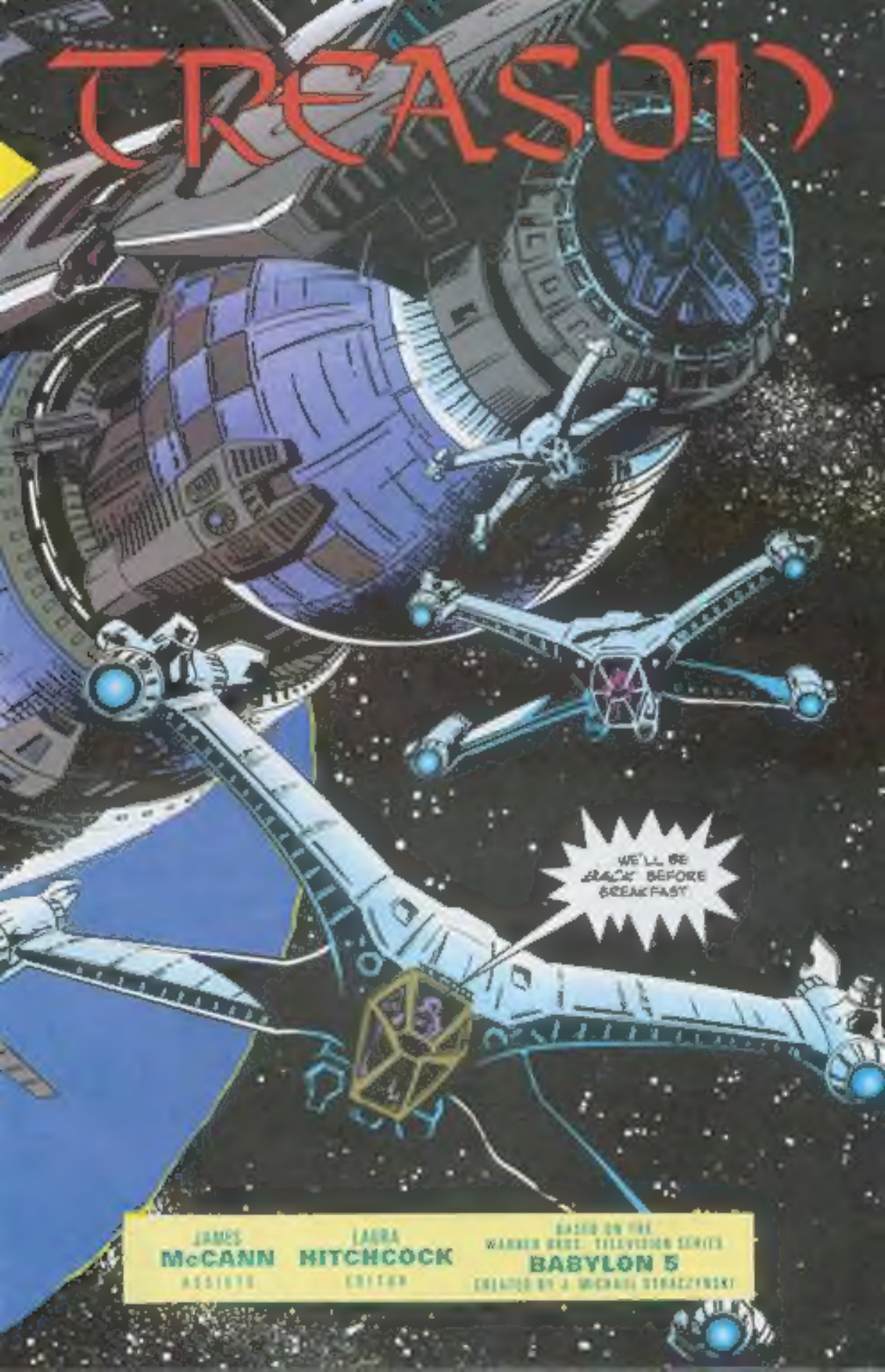
CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE!

BABYLON 5 — DOCKING BAY 94
0432 HOURS
HUH? WHAT WAS THAT?
WHO'S THERE?
CALM DOWN, COLBY, THERE'S NO ONE...
...THIS IS NO TIME TO BE NERVOUS
YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB, JUST HELPING OUT.
LIKE THE BOSS SAID...
"...SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES IS A SIMPLE ACT, TO REWRITE HUMAN HISTORY."
0734 HOURS
"BABYLON CONTROL... THIS IS MINBARI FLYER ZHALAN REQUESTING CLEARANCE FOR TAKEOFF."
"YOU ARE CLEAR TO PROCEED ZHALAN."
"HAVE A SAFE FLIGHT."

2151 HOURS — THREE DAYS LATER
ZETA SQUAD, YOU ARE CLEAR TO LAUNCH.
CONFIRMED. BABYLON CONTROL. WHERE TO?
IT'S A DISTRESS CALL IN GRID EPSILON. I'M TRANSMITTING LOCATION NOW.
GOT IT. TARGET IS CROSS-LOCKED AT LAST REPORTED POSITION.
PROCEED DIRECTLY TO JUMP GATE. GOOD LUCK, KEEFER.
KEEP THE COFFEE HOT, CONTROL....
MARK MORETTI WRITER
MICHAEL NETZER PENCILLER
ROB LEIGH INKER
ROBBIE BUSCH COLORIST
TRACY HAMPTON MUNSEY LETTERER


TREASON
WE'LL BE BACK BEFORE BREAKFAST
JAMES McCANN
ARTISTS
LAURA HITCHCOCK
EDITOR
BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES
BABYLON 5

"LIEUTENANT, I WANT YOU TO KNOW YOU'VE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE. MY FIRST NIGHT OFF IN A WEEK— BUT YOU MANAGED TO GET ME OUT OF BED."

SCOTTY: LT COMMANDER IVANOVA— BUT IT'S A WEIRD ONE. AN INTERMITTENT MAYDAY, BUT THEY WON'T GIVE THEIR REGISTRY OR I.F.F. CODE.
WE TRIANGULATED THE SIGNAL AND ZETA SQUAD WAS DISPATCHED TO—

EXCUSE ME, BIRS, BUT HERE IT COMES AGAIN.

ON SCREEN:
"—SKRICK— REPEAT ALL SHIPS IN QUAD EPSILON— SKRICK—"

"—THIS IS STARLINER CHINOOK-KU TO ALL SHIPS IN— SKRICK—"
"NO!— PLEASE, DON'T!"

"AAK!"

WOW
THE RAIDERS AGAIN, LT COMMANDER
I DON'T THINK SO
THE PILOT NEVER MENTIONED AN ATTACK, AND THERE WAS NO VISUAL DAMAGE OR INTERSHIP TRANSMISSIONS... BUT I SWEAR I HEARD SHOTS FIRED
SEEMS MORE LIKE A HIJACK GONE BAD. HMMM...
WHAT'S ZETA WING'S E.T.A?
SEVENTY-TWO MINUTES
SHOULD WE NOTIFY THE CAPTAIN?
NO...NO. LET HIM SLEEP LIEUTENANT
HE'S BEEN WORKING DOUBLE SHIFTS TRYING TO LEARN EVERYTHING ABOUT BABYLON 5 SINCE HE ARRIVED
THIS ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN'T HANDLE, RIGHT?
RIGHT, SIR
I KNEW IT WAS TOO QUIET AROUND HERE
OKAY. LET'S PULL UP THE REGISTRATION AND MANIFEST OF THIS "CARGO-HOG" AND HAVE A LOOK-SEE.
THESE ARE THE TIMES I WISH GARIBALDI WAS BACK ON DUTY, BUT
YOU MUST BE

NOTHING'S THE SAME ANYMORE.
PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S BLOWN AWAY, JEFF GETS TRANSFERRED TO MINBAR, THEN'S'RE GOING TO HELL AND I'M STUCK IN SICKBAY...!
SO, I'M GLAD TO GET VISITORS, BUT THE LAST GUEST WHO NOVILISED ME IN MY PAU—, UH, MY SECOND FAVORITE THING IN THE UNIVERSE— JUST DIDN'T GET IT.

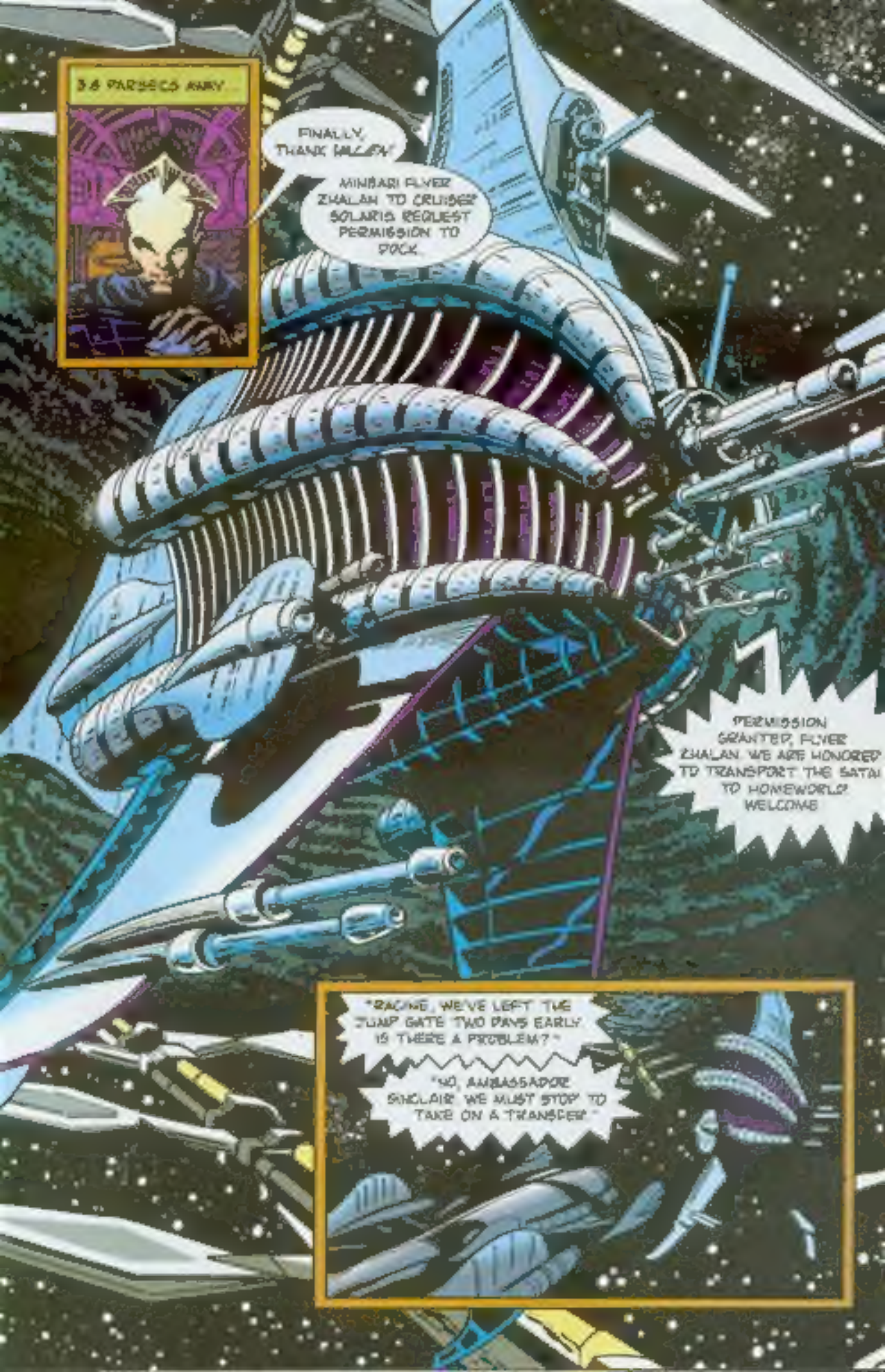
BY THE WAY, HOW IS DELENN? I HEARD ABOUT HER "CONDITION"—

BACK ON MINBAR, AMBASSADORIAL DUTIES, I THINK.
I'M JUST GLAD YOUR CAREER WAS STILL OPEN.
HEY, IF I KNEW THAT GETTING SHOT WAS ALL IT TOOK TO GET YOU TO STOP BY...

...I'D HAVE CONSIDERED IT LONG AGO.
—THERE IT'S READY.

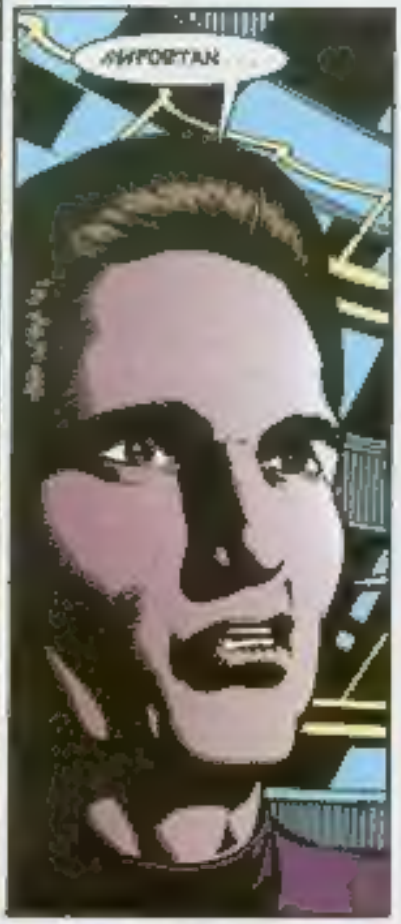
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, MR. GARIBALDI.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR... OH, NO—!
DUCK DODGERS—? YOU MUST BE KIDDING.
Duck Dod


3.6 PARSECS AWAY...
FINALLY, THANK VALEN!
MINBARI FLYER ZHALAN TO CRUISER SOLARIS REQUEST PERMISSION TO DOCK
PERMISSION GRANTED, FLYER ZHALAN. WE ARE HONORED TO TRANSPORT THE SATAI TO HOMEWORLD. WELCOME
"RACHNI, WE'VE LEFT THE JUMP GATE TWO DAYS EARLY. IS THERE A PROBLEM?"
"NO, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR. WE MUST STOP TO TAKE ON A TRANSFER."

SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE CEREMONY?
YOU KNOW OF THE SHI-KI?
A LITTLE.
I, MYSELF, AM NOT AN ADVOCATE BY BIRTH, BUT I WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN.
SINCE THE DEATH OF DUKHAT, MINBAR HAS BEEN GOVERNED BY THE GREY COUNCIL.
BUT THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.
I WILL NOT ASK, NOW, BUT YOU ARE WELL-INFORMED, AMBASSADOR.
NOW, THE TEN-CYCLE PERIOD OF MOURNING IS OVER, AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE GREY COUNCIL ARE GATHERING TOGETHER ON MINBAR FOR A SPECIAL CEREMONY TO INSTALL A NEW LEADER.
THE FLYER IS CARRYING AN IMPORTANT PASSENGER.
A MEMBER OF THE GREY COUNCIL WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FOR SOME TIME. BUT WAS ABLE TO ATTEND AT THE LAST MOMENT.

MOMENTS LATER...
AN HONOR GUARD ESCORT...? I THINK YOU UNDERSTATE THE CASE, RACINE.
THAT PASSENGER MUST BE VERY...

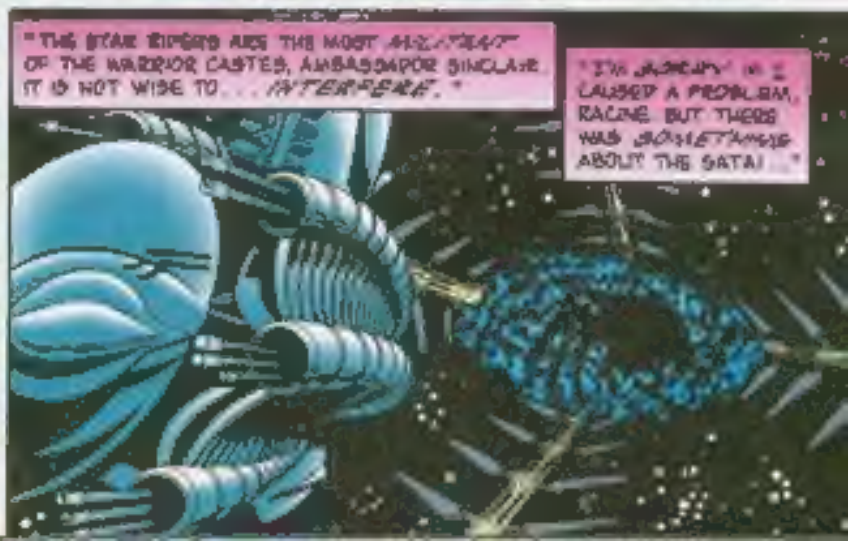

AWFORTAN...

A—EXCUSE ME
AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR—NO! YOU MUST NOT—

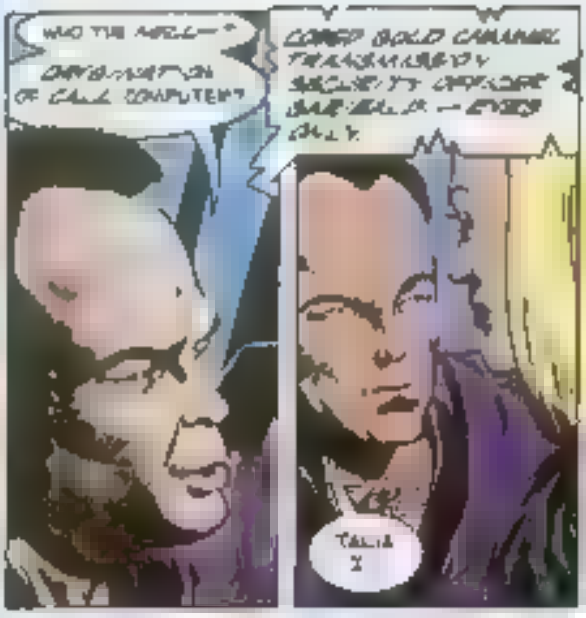
EXCUSE ME, BUT I—
STOP, HUMAN!

DO NOT APPROACH THE SATAI. IT IS ROKBOOGH!

APOLOGIES, WARRIOR. THE EARTH AMBASSADOR... DOES NOT KNOW. PLEASE—EXCUSE US.


"THE STAR RIDERS ARE THE MOST MAGNIFICENT OF THE WARRIOR CASTES, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR. IT IS NOT WISE TO... INTERFERE."
"I'M SORRY IF I CAUSED A PROBLEM, RACINE. BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SATAI..."

AND ANOTHER WHEN I GET WITHIN 15 FEET OF A PAY PHONE
WHERE YA AT?
I WITH MIGRAYED
YA—HA—HA GREAT THAT'S MY FAVORITE L
ALWAYS CALL FOR MICHAEL SAC BAG


WHO THE HELL—?
INFORMATION OR CALL COMPUTER?
COMP GOLD CANADA TRANSMISSION SECURITY CHECK SAC BAG — EYES ONLY
TALIA X

THAT'S ALL RIGHT MICHAEL

WE'LL DO IT SOMETIME N BAT

OKAY, COMPUTER PUT —— PUT THE CALL THROUGH
THIS BETTER BE GREAT WHOEVER
MICHAEL HOPE I DIDN'T WAKE YOU

—THEE
HOW ARE YOU FEELING YOU OLD WARHORSE?

WELL EXCEPT FOR MY TEMPER WHO YOU MANAGED TO SCARE AWAY ANNA BETTER THAN I
WHAT'S UP? NO ONE EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM YOU UNTIL YOU SETTLED IN ON NUBAR

WE'RE STILL EN ROUTE, BUT I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO SAY GOODBYE—
—TO YOU OR ANYONE ELSE
HEY WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER SELL ME, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING
BESIDES I HEAR HEY DON'T GIVE YOU MUCH WE ARE A UNION
THANKS MICHAEL WE JUST PICKED UP A PASSENGER AND SEEM NEED ME OF SOME KIND I NEED A FAVOR
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU PAL?
I PROM NEP TO MEET AMBASSADOR PELENA THE NIGHT YOU WERE SHOT
BUT BY THE TIME I REACHED HER SHE'D COCOONED HERSELF
THE MINBAR ARE GOING TO INSTALL A NEW LEADER AND IT'S UP TO YOU TO FORWARD MY ALLIANCE TO PELENA SINCE SHE WON'T BE
TELL YOU THE TRUTH I'M GLAD SHE'S NOT HERE THERE'S SOME KIND OF UNDERCURRENT RUNNING THROUGH THE MINBAR CASTES
SEEMS PARAMOUNT WITH THE SPACE COUNCIL AND THE NEW LEADER ALL IN ONE PLACE
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT A COUP D'ETAT IS THAT A REASONABLE ASSESSMENT?
I HOPE SO I AM A CIVIL WHAT NOW WHY

THERE SHE IS, MAN. WHAT A BEAUT OF A SHIP
BABYLON CONTROL THIS IS ZETA WING
WE ALMOST MISSED HER SHE'S READING VERY LOW POWER LEVELS NO COMMUNICATIONS, NO LIFE SUPPORT SIGNS AND
OH MY GOD
I CAN SEE
THEY'RE ALL DEAD
THIS IS LT COMMANDER NIRANJA ZETA WING ATTACH GRAPPLING HOOKS AND TOW HER BACK THROUGH THE JUMP GATE

ROGER BABYLON 5 - WE'RE PULLING HER ASTERN NOW APPROACHING JUMP GATE
SEE YOU SHORTLY
AS NEAR AS WE CAN GET FOR A EARTH LUXURY STARLINER THE OPINION IS
WHAT'S COMPUTER SAYS IT'S ALPHA-SIX CLASSIFIED EYES ONLY ?
TAKE OVER LIEUTENANT JENNA AND WAKE DR FRANKLIN
TELL HIM TO MEET ME IN THE BAR
I'LL ROUND UP AN EMERGENCY CREW
BUT KEEP IT QUIET THIS SOUNDS UGLY AND I DON'T WANT TO DRAW ATTENTION UNTIL WE KNOW MORE

YEAH SHE'S A
THAT SHE
HAS A PRICE?
DON'T THEY
ALL?
HA
HA
AND YE
WANT TO
REMEMBER THE
LOOK ON YOUR
SILLY FACES
WHEN

JUST AS WELL
A LITTLE DISGUSTING
DOESN MATTER
ONE BY
ONE, FACE BY
FACE

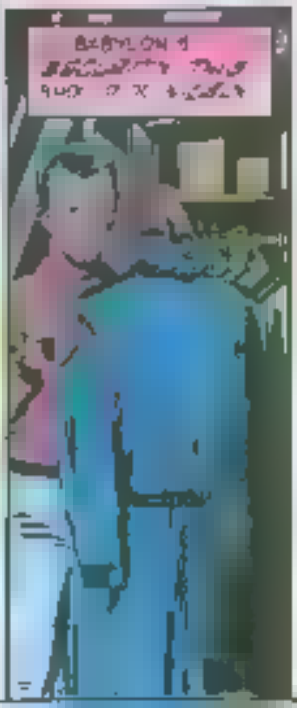
THEY'LL
BE DRIVEN BACK
TO THEIR HOME

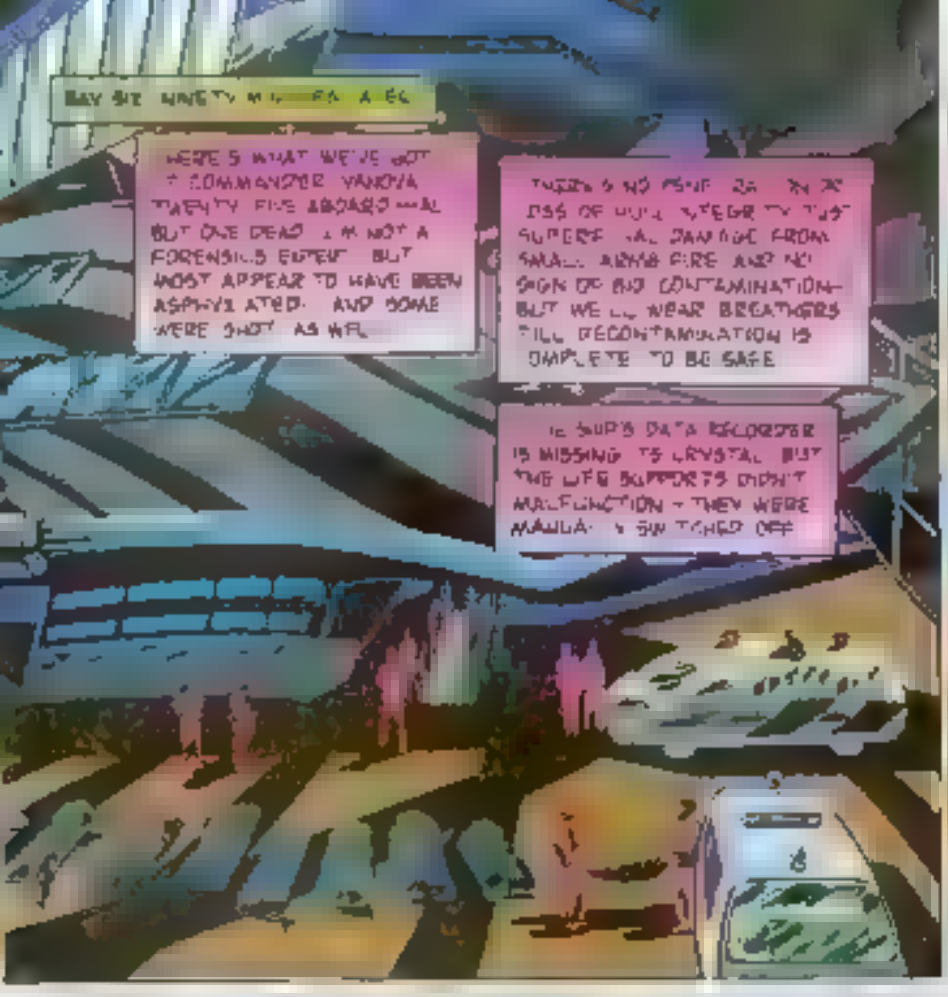
IF
HAS ANYTHING TO
SAY ABOUT IT

WITH PROPER
TRAINING AND
AND A BIT
I'LL ALWAYS STAY
ONE STEP AHEAD OF

ROGER BABYLON 5 HERE
PULLING HER
APPROACHING JUMP GATE
SHAN-A

IT'S
AN
ON WORKER
MAINTENANCE


BABYLON 4

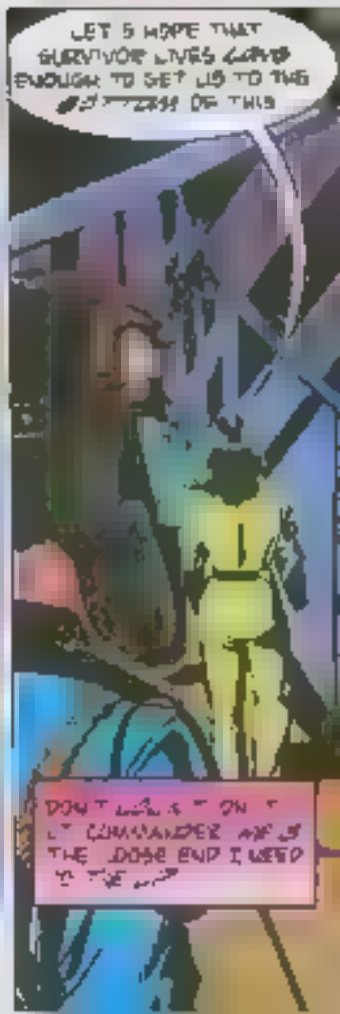

HERE'S WHAT WE'VE GOT
COMMANDER VANDYA TWENTY FIVE ABOARD ORIGINAL BUT ONE DEAD I'M NOT A FORENSICS EXPERT BUT MOST APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ASPHYXIATED AND SOME WERE SHOT AS WELL
THERE'S NO SIGN OF ANY OF THE CREW HAVING SUFFERED ANY DAMAGE FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE AND NO SIGN OF BIO CONTAMINATION BUT WE'LL WEAR BREATHERS TILL DECONTAMINATION IS COMPLETE TO BE SAFE
THE SHIP'S DATA RECORDER IS MISSING ITS CRYSTAL BUT THE LIFE SUPPORTS DIDN'T MALFUNCTION - THEY WERE MANUALLY SWITCHED OFF

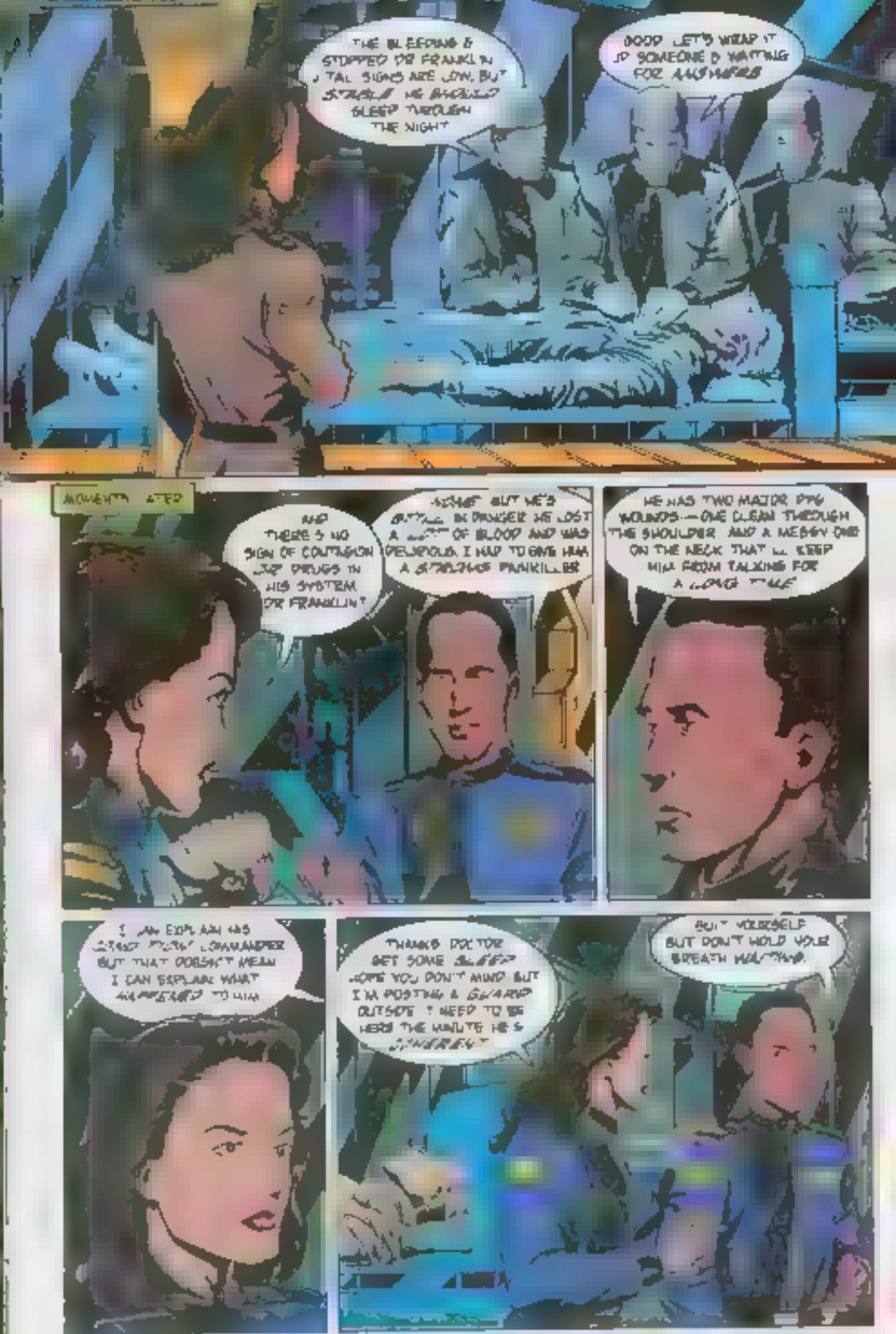
THE MOST ADDS UP LT LEEDS THE LONE SURVIVOR WAS SHOT TOO BUT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WEARING A BREATHER UNIT
YOU KNOW I SWEAR I'VE SEEN THIS SHIP BEFORE

WORK ON RICHARDS
THERE'S NO IDENTIFICATION ON ON ANY OF THE BODIES COMMANDER

GREAT
GET ON THE NET RICHARDS TRY EARTH CENTRAL MUST BE A FLIGHT RECORD SOMEWHERE NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN AFFORD A SHIP LIKE THIS

THE REST OF YOU KEEP GOING OVER THE SHIP IT MUST HOLD AN ANSWER I'LL BE IN MED-LAB IF YOU NEED ME

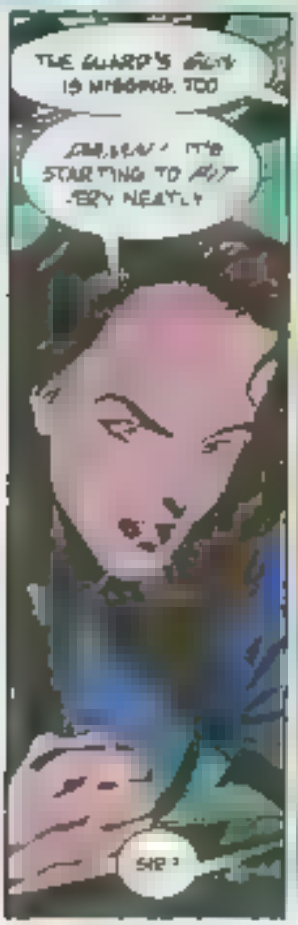

LET'S HOPE THAT SURVIVOR LIVES LONG ENOUGH TO GET US TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS
DON'T WORRY LT COMMANDER WE'LL THE DOOR END I NEED TO TIE UP


THE BLEEDING IS STOPPED DR FRANKLIN'S VITAL SIGNS ARE LOW, BUT STABLE HE SHOULD SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT
GOOD LET'S WRAP IT UP SOMEONE'S WAITING FOR ANSWERS
MOMENTS LATER
AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF CONTAGION JUST DRUGS IN HIS SYSTEM DR FRANKLIN?
AGAIN BUT HE'S BADLY IN DANGER HE LOST A LOT OF BLOOD AND WAS DELIRIOUS I HAD TO GIVE HIM A STRONG PAINKILLER
HE HAS TWO MAJOR GSW WOUNDS—ONE CLEAN THROUGH THE SHOULDER AND A MESSY ONE ON THE NECK THAT'LL KEEP HIM FROM TALKING FOR A LONG TIME
I CAN EXPLAIN HIS CURRENT POSITION COMMANDER BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM
THANKS DOCTOR GET SOME SLEEP HOPE YOU DON'T MIND BUT I'M POSTING A GUARD OUTSIDE I NEED TO BE HERE THE MINUTE HE'S CONSCIOUS
SEE YOURSELF BUT DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WAITING

MMMM
HAHAH ALIVE AND ?ZZT WELL I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SURVIVED THAT MESS ON THE SHIP
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER NOW
SO YOU'RE AN ALIVE LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT TO COME BACK
-ARRRGH!
-?
GOT OF A FOR A PATIENT THAT GUY'S ALICE WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?

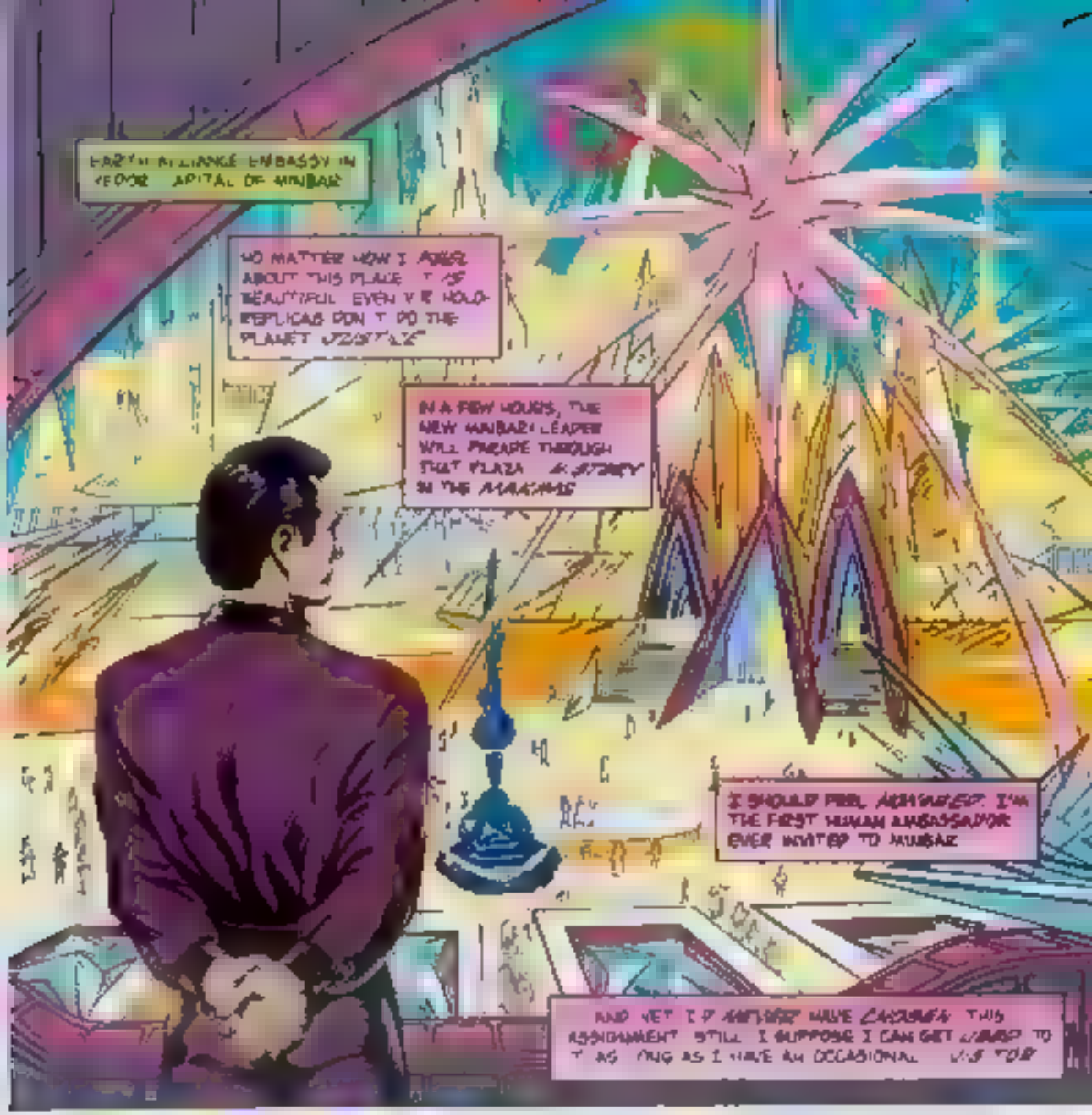
SSA YOUR COMMAND AND CONTROL
UGH IF IT WAS A SNAKE IT WOULD'VE BITTEN ME JEEPS WAS IT THAT THE JACKASS WHO WAS CONFISCATED BY EARTH FORCE IN AN AREA'S BRIEFING BUST TWO WEEKS AGO
COMMANDER MALCOLM — THERE'S AN EMERGENCY IN MEDICAL

GET DR FRANKLIN DOWN THERE
EXCUSE ME, SIR BUT HE'S ALREADY THERE HE WENT TO CHECK ON THE PATIENT WHO WAS DONE THE GUARD WAS DEAD
AND, COMMANDER...?


THE GUARD'S GUN IS MISSING, TOO
COMMAND: IT'S STARTING TO HIT VERY NEARLY
SIR?

SOUND A SILENT ALARM TO ALL POSTS DON'T LET ANY SHIPS LEAVE THE STATION AND MAKE EVERY AVAILABLE
YES SIR

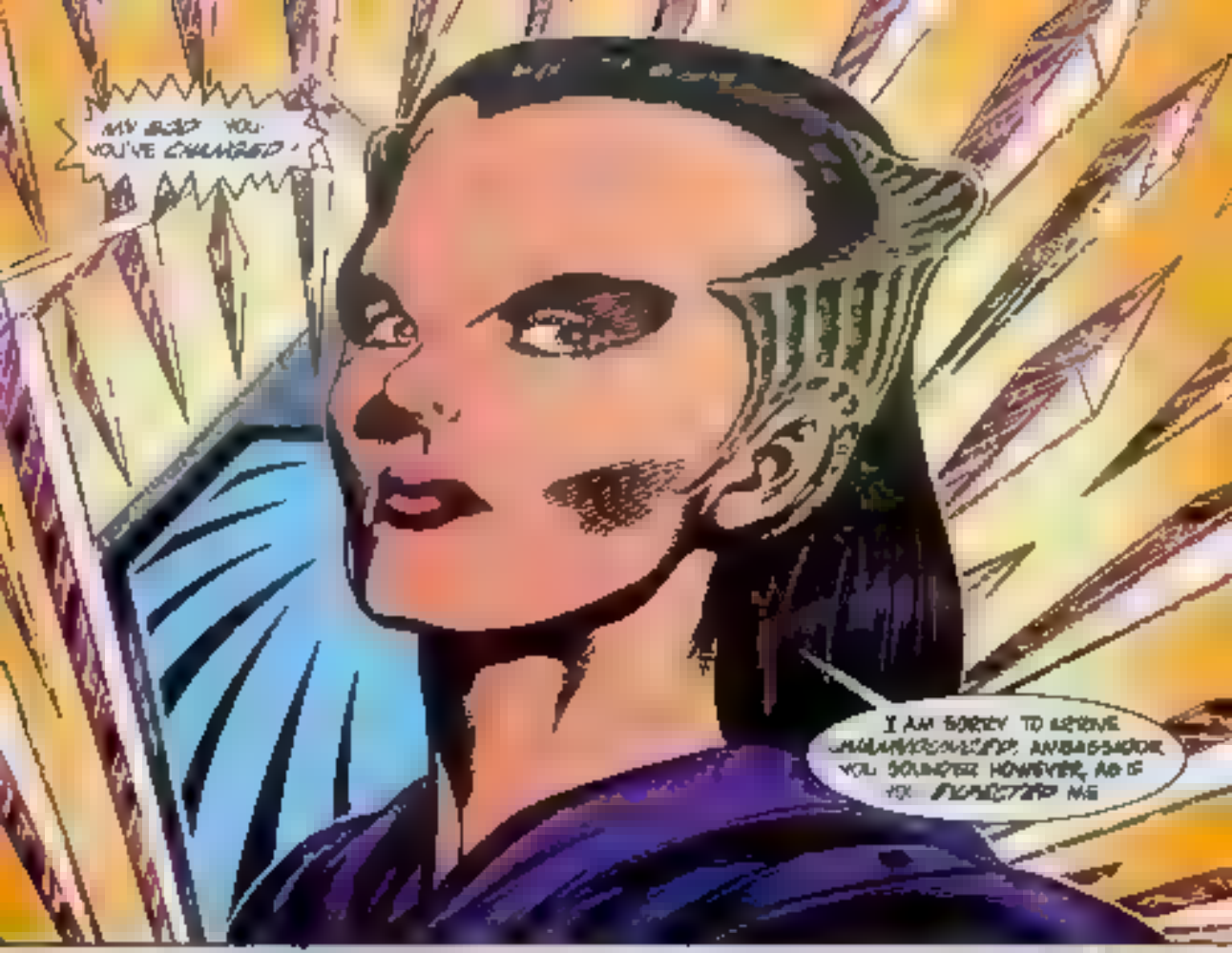
PUT EVERYONE ON THE LOOKOUT I WANT THE PATIENT ALIVE IF POSSIBLE BUT USE EXTREME CAUTION — CONSIDER HIM ARMED AND DANGEROUS


EARTH ALLIANCE EMBASSY IN NEW CAPITAL OF MINBAR
NO MATTER HOW I FEEL ABOUT THIS PLACE IT IS BEAUTIFUL EVEN IF HOLO-REPLICAS DON'T DO THE PLANET JUSTICE
IN A FEW HOURS, THE NEW MINBARI LEADER WILL PARADE THROUGH THAT PLAZA IN STYLE IN THE MARKHAT
I SHOULD FEEL HONORED! I'M THE FIRST HUMAN AMBASSADOR EVER INVITED TO MINBAR
AND YET I'D RATHER HAVE CAUGHT THIS ASSIGNMENT STILL I SUPPOSE I CAN GET USED TO IT AS LONG AS I HAVE AN OCCASIONAL VISTOR

COME IN

AH, AMBASSADOR DELENN

I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE YOU WE PICKED UP ON THE WAR CRUISER, BUT—


MY GOD! YOU... YOU'VE CHANGED!
I AM SORRY TO OFFEND AMBASSADOR, YOU SOUNDED HOWEVER, AS IF YOU EXPECTED ME

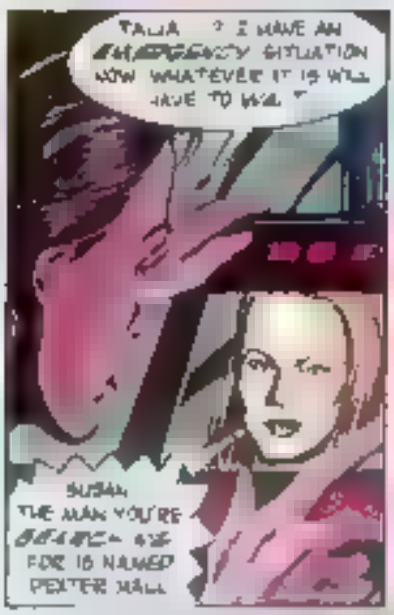
I WAS EXPECT— ER, I MEAN I HOPED YOU, BUT- PELENN, I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, EXCEPT,
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

YOU DIDN'T COME TO SEE ME IN TIME, JEFFREY NOW IT'S TOO LATE
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, PELENN

EVENTS CONSPIRED AGAINST US I REACHED A TIME WHEN I COULD GO NO FURTHER AS I WAS
I CANNOT EXPLAIN MORE YET I AM THE FIRST OF MY KIND EVER TO BECOME THIS I AM NOW ONLY ALIEN-HUMAN.

I AM ALSO HALF HUMAN

THEN YOU HAVE TO SWEEP EACH SECTION ASAP IF OFFICER WELCH HE COULDN'T JUST DISAPPEAR INTO—
BEEP-BEEP-BEEP
THERE'S ANOTHER CALL I'LL GET BACK TO YOU IN THE MEANT ME START OVER DR FRANKLIN SAYS HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR IN HIS CONDITION
FRANKLIN HERE

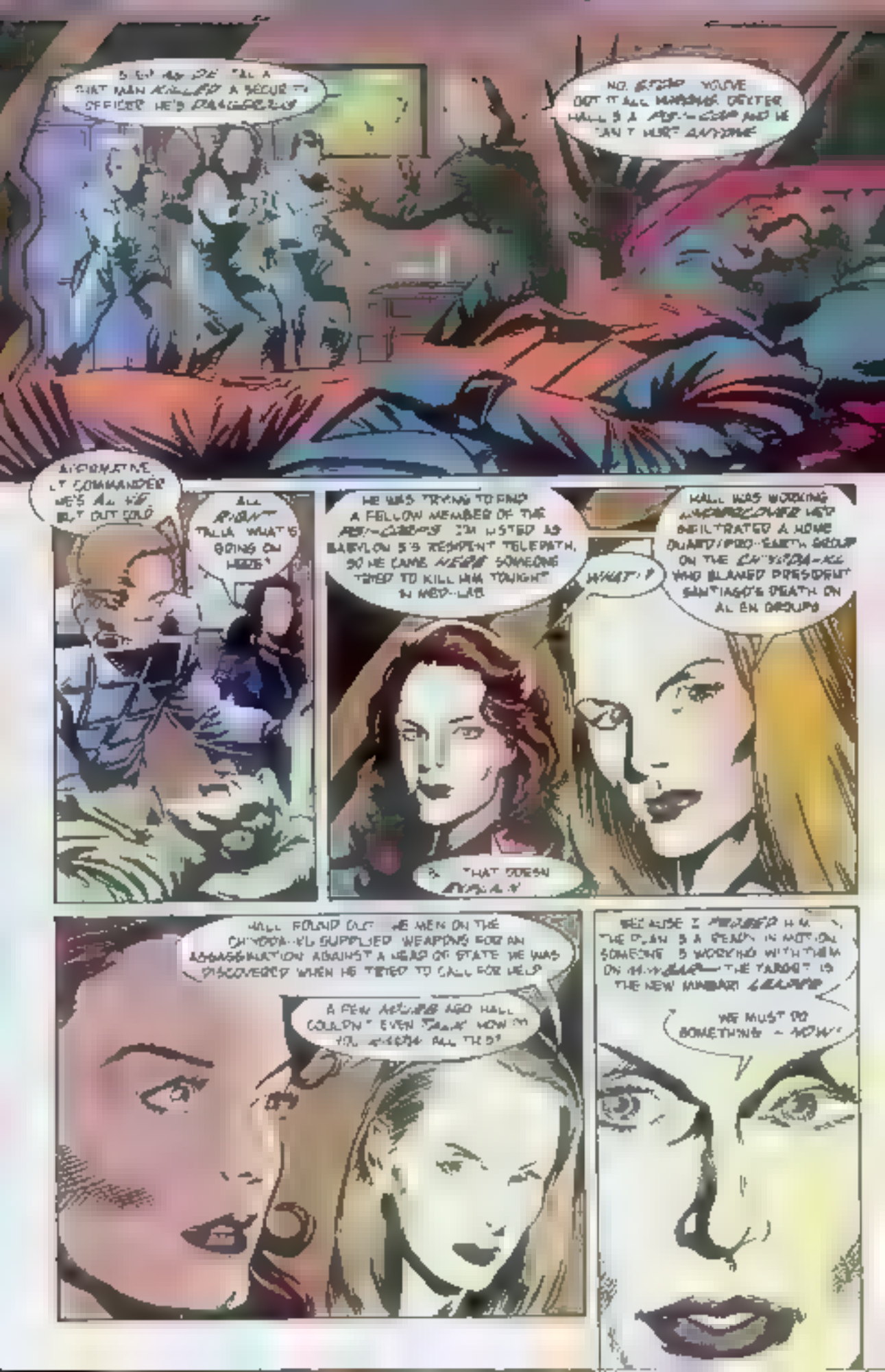

TALIA ? I HAVE AN EMERGENCY SITUATION NOW WHATEVER IT IS WILL HAVE TO WAIT
SUSAN THE MAN YOU'RE SEARCH-ING FOR IS NAMED DEXTER HALL

HOW DO

BECAUSE HE'S IN MY QUARTERS DON'T ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS JUST GET HERE AS FAST ASAMN WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME

FREDERICKS LOBURN LET'S GO! ALERT ALL SEARCH TEAMS CONVERGE ON LEVEL

POWNBELOW
THE QUARTERS OF
THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR HELP COMMANDER I DON'T MISS TWICE


SIGMA AND ZOE TELL A DIFFERENT MAN KILLED A SECURITY OFFICER. HE'S DANGEROUS
NO. SIGMA YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG. DEXTER HALL IS A PSI-COP AND HE CAN'T HURT ANYONE
AFFIRMATIVE, LT COMMANDER. HE'S ALL HE BLIT OUT COLD
ALL RIGHT TALIA. WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HE WAS TRYING TO FIND A FELLOW MEMBER OF THE PSI-CORPS I'M LISTED AS BABYLON 5'S RESIDENT TELEPATH, SO HE CAME HERE. SOMEONE TRIED TO KILL HIM TONIGHT IN MED-LAB.
WHAT?!
HALL WAS WORKING UNDERCOVER. HE'D INFILTRATED A HOME GUARD/PRO-EARTH GROUP ON THE CHRYSALIS WHO BLAMED PRESIDENT SANTIAGO'S DEATH ON ALIEN GROUPS
THAT DOESN'T MEAN
HALL FOUND OUT THE MEN ON THE CHRYSALIS SUPPLIED WEAPONS FOR AN ASSASSINATION AGAINST A HEAD OF STATE. HE WAS DISCOVERED WHEN HE TRIED TO CALL FOR HELP.
A FEW HOURS AGO HALL COULDN'T EVEN THINK HOW TO SPELL ALL THAT
BECAUSE I PROBED HIM, THE PLAN IS A PERSON IN MOTION. SOMEONE IS WORKING WITH THEM ON BOARD. THE TARGET IS THE NEW AMBASSADOR
WE MUST DO SOMETHING - NOW!

MIRIAM
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JEFFREY, BUT I MUST ATTEND THE CEREMONY. WILL YOU BE JOINING US?
I'LL WATCH IT FROM HERE, WHERE I WON'T BE A DISTRACTION.
UNTIL FINAL AMBASSADOR—ALLIANCE?
EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTION, SATAI. BUT I PREFER IT IF YOU WOULD REMAIN FOR A MOMENT TO ACT AS WITNESS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
I THINK YOU WILL, AMBASSADOR
THESE ARE YOUR BELONGINGS, SINCLAIR?
YES, I'VE BEEN ALLOWED THEM. THEY WERE TRANSFERRED FROM BABYLON 5 ONTO DELIAN'S SHIP
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT? WHY ALL THE HOSTILITY?
INSIDE THE FALSE TOP OF THIS SEALED CASE WE FOUND SOMETHING
A LONG-RANGE EARTH WEAPON...
...ALONG WITH SCHEMATICS OF OUR NEW LEADER'S CONFIGURATION ROUTE, PINPOINTING THE MOMENT IT WILL PASS BY YOUR WINDOW

THE EVIDENCE INDICATES OTHERWISE, SATAI.
AH! THIS HAS TO BE A MISTAKE!
YOU SEE, SATAI, WE INVITE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM EARTH TO LIVE AMONG US IN PEACE—AND THIS IS HOW HE RESPONDS.
AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE OUR NEW LEADER.
WHEN YOU ARE CONVICTED, BE ASSURED WE WILL DECLARE WAR AGAINST EARTH FOR YOUR TREACHERY.
TAKE HIM!
TO BE CONTINUED...

B A B C O M

"It was the dawn of the third age of mankind... ten years after the Earth-Minbari war. The Babylon Project was a dream given form. Its goal: to prevent another war, by creating a place where humans and aliens could work out their differences peacefully. It's a port of call, home away from home, for diplomats, hustlers, entrepreneurs, and wanderers. Humans and aliens, wrapped in two million, five hundred thousand tons of spinning metal... all alone in the night. It can be a dangerous place, but it's our last, best hope for peace. This is the story of the last of the Babylon stations. The year is 2260. The name of the place is... **BABYLON 5**."

MAKEUP FOR AN ALIEN WORLD

BY RUSSELL JOHNSON

With credits ranging from NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD to THE DARK HALF, the makeup team of Everett Burrell and John Vulich is no stranger to... the strange.

And when offered the opportunity to create alien effects for the science-fiction television drama BABYLON 5, Vulich and Burrell, co-founders of Optic Nerve Studios, pounced at the chance to stretch their creativity. Since opening in 1989, Optic Nerve has risen to become one of the hot up-and-coming makeup effects houses in the industry, but bringing a top level of quality to the small screen would be the studio's toughest job yet.

One of the most challenging aspects of taking over the BABYLON 5 project from John Criswell (who created the alien effects for BABYLON 5's two-hour movie premiere) involved modifying the design of the Minbari. The androgynous look that Minbari Ambassador Delenn sported in the pilot was deemed too harsh and unattractive, so Vulich and Burrell returned to designer Steve Burg's original concepts for inspiration. They abandoned the previously-used prosthetic chin extension and created a more subtle forehead appliance to foam latex attachment).

Mira Furlan as Ambassador Delenn, Babylon 5's Minbari liaison.

The resulting design better incorporated actress Mira Furlan's natural features and gave the character a more angelic, feminine appearance. Last-minute inspiration provided the now familiar blue patterning seen on the heads of all Minbari, roughly analogous to human freckles.

In addition to refining the Minbari look, Optic Nerve's on-set makeup artists, including Greg Funk and Will Hutt, worked to halve the prosthetic application time, from four hours to two. They began prepainting all appliances with the same "Skibul" prosthetic makeup that's also used to blend the appliances into the natural

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THEY WON THE EMMY!

During the intense first season spent creating alien makeup effects for BABYLON 5, John Vulich and Everett Burrell, co-owners of Optic Nerve Studios, often kidded that B5 would be their ticket to the Emmys. But on July 21, they received a fax from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences that put all kidding aside. They had been nominated for a 1994 Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Makeup.

Running against well-established competition like SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE and STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, Burrell and Vulich knew they were the dark horse to win. As the new kids on the block, just receiving a nomination seemed significant. Nevertheless, on awards night, Vulich and Burrell were summoned to the stage, along with co-nominees Greg Funk, Ron Pipes, and Mary Kay Morse, to receive their own Emmy statuettes.

According to Vulich, "It was horrifying. Exciting, but horrifying."

"It was fun," says Burrell, "but my Emmy broke. I hope that's not a bad foreshadowing of things to come." Not likely, considering the Emmy recognition has already produced a number of interesting new job opportunities.

Greg Funk, one of Optic Nerve's key on-set makeup people, still seems a bit overwhelmed by the whole experience. "It's the most Hollywood thing I've ever done!"

DC COMICS

NEXT UP: **IN HARM'S WAY**

The crisis continues as Earth Alliance and the Minbari inch their way toward all-out war!

Mark Waid continues the story, and Carlos Gazzen guests on art.

BEHIND THE SCENES

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lines of the actor's face. Vacuformed plastic templates were created to help the makeup artists air-brush correct blue patterns onto the heads of recurring Minbari players — thus saving time and ensuring consistency from show to show.

Without a doubt, the Minbari have proven to be one of the most intriguing alien races to grace the small screen in some time. Not unlike ancient Japanese culture, the societal structure of the Minbari includes warrior castes (such as the Wind Swords), philosophical orders, and clandestine political organizations. Since they represent one of the "superpowers" of the B5 universe, Optic Nerve designers, such as John Winston, pay special attention to the development of all featured Minbari players.

In particular, much thought went into the trademark bone protrusion encircling the heads of the Minbari people. Originally envisioned as a kind of ceremonial headdress, it evolved into an actual part of Minbari physiology. It was further decided that female Minbari ritually carved their crowns to achieve a more decorative effect (like getting their hair done), while males allowed their crowns to retain a more organic look.

John Vickery as Ani Norcen, a Minbari warrior from the episode "Legacies."

Volish and Burrell took advantage of this physical feature when developing new Minbari characters, too. For example, characters pledged to a warrior caste, such as General Neroon (seen in the episode "Legacies"), were given bones with a rough, jagged look. On the other hand, the crown of Ambassador Delenn's assistant Lennier, played by *Lost in Space* alumnus Bill Mumy, has a softer, more rounded design — invoking the image of fawn antlers, to emphasize the character's youth and innocence.

Veteran SF actor Bill Mumy in the role of Lennier, Ambassador Delenn's representative aide.

In the early episodes of B5, Minbari men apparently never had to deal with the tedious ritual of shaving. That changed, however, with the introduction of Dukat, played by Louis Turenne, in the episode "A Voice in the Wilderness." Turenne was very "attached" to his facial hair, so it was agreed that the bearded look would be incorporated into his makeup.

Dukat, a rebel Minbari portrayed by Richard Grove in the second season episode "Points of Departure."

Volish and Burrell rationalized this anomaly as a reflection of the character's mystic, almost wizardlike qualities. They also decided that facial hair might appear in the future on characters representing the radical fringe of Minbar society.

A mysterious race, second only to the enigmatic Vorlons in terms of secrets, the Minbari have many exciting surprises — and revelations — in their future. Commitment to detail and quality by the Optic Nerve crew will help make these surprises some of the most fascinating in television science fiction.

RUSSELL JOHNSON
works at Optic Nerve as a project coordinator, puppeteer, and sometimes bartender.